



Presented April 7, 2014

Town Council Report for March 2014 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- This month our reported gross operating profits recorded for the month of March were at ~\$3,434. This is ~\$1,400 higher than this same time last year. However, it seems like March's weather puts us into a "feast or famine" situation each year. This year the golf course's staff's plan was to open on March 14th. Obviously our first day we could open, even for an afternoon, was later than that. In fact this year from the planned opening date of the 14th until the end of the month we were only open for 6 days.

Over the last 6 sets of March figures (counting 2014), we have 3 whose gross operating profits for the month were in the \$2,000-\$3,500 range (2014, 2013, & 2011). The March average for just these three low years is ~\$2,705. In the other three years (2012, 2010, & 2009), the golf course's March figures were all over \$10,000, with an average of ~\$13,780 for those three higher years. The average March gross operating profit for our entire span of operation calculates to ~\$8,233.

Other Highlighted Matters

- Park staff toured Mr. Brian Newton, CEO of Boone REMC, around six of our parks (and discussed a seventh property without visiting it). Apparently Boone REMC is researching the potential of a partnership between themselves, a private firm, and some other land-holding entity (perhaps parks or schools). As discussed by Mr. Newton, he is looking for suitable donated land in which to place a small solar-panel farm as a demonstration, educational, and promotional opportunity. Shortly after the tour, Mr. Newton presented the general concept to the Park Board at their March meeting, but stated he hadn't found "just the right site for our purposes" while on his spark tour. The Park Board extended an invitation to Mr. Newton to return for more in-depth discussion if his mind would change regarding site suitability.
- Through a combination of the existing part-time park staff (primarily), Park full-time staff, and Park Board member participation, the Park Department's Zion Nature Center has been able to maintain all of its normal public hours. Up to this point we haven't had to ask help of the Friends of the Zion Nature Center to assist in keeping the Center staffed during its public hours, but it is very likely they would find an available body or two if it was needed. Animal care also is being covered, primarily by the same two to four staff who had been covering a significant portion of it before (although park full-time staff is also more involved in this aspect as well). Again, there is likely the availability of "Friends" assistance on animal care if it turns out to be necessary, but to this point there hasn't needed to be much involvement.

The process proceeds along very well with a large number of candidates. While most are from the local region, there has been some interest from across the nation as well. The Committee has conducted many interviews and now is in the stages of secondary, more in-depth interviews with several strong finalists.

- Heritage Trail Park has been brought off of "winter-footing". Picnic tables and benches have been brought out of winter storage and set up. Trash receptacles and bike racks are also being placed.